

# ***An Overview of Virginia's “Comprehensive Refugee Resettlement Program”***

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# What we will be talking about this morning . . .

Brief overview of

- The national and state Refugee Resettlement Program
- Virginia's comprehensive approach to service delivery
- The Virginia Community Capacity Initiative

## Legislation

Congress established the national Refugee Resettlement Program in 1980 with the passage of the Refugee Act. It reflects a core value of the U.S. to offer a safe haven to a small percentage of vulnerable and oppressed populations.

## Definition of a Refugee

*“a person who is outside his/her country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group.”*

## **Presidential Memorandum – Refugee Admissions for Fiscal 2014**

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional considerations

Africa	15,000
East Asia	14,000
Near East/South Asia	33,000
Europe and Central Asia	1,000
Latin America/Caribbean	5,000
Unallocated Reserve	<u>2,000</u>
Total	70,000

## Other Eligible Populations

- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking
- Iraqis & Afghanis with Special Immigrant Visas
- Amerasians

Department of Social Services  
Office of Newcomer Services (ONS)  
Primary Areas of Responsibility

1. Virginia Refugee Resettlement Program
2. Refugee Unaccompanied Minors Program  
*(p.s. not, not, Unaccompanied alien Children Program)*
3. Virginia Individual & Mass Repatriation Program

# Federal Partners

Department of  
Homeland Security  
(USCIS)

Department of State  
(PRM)

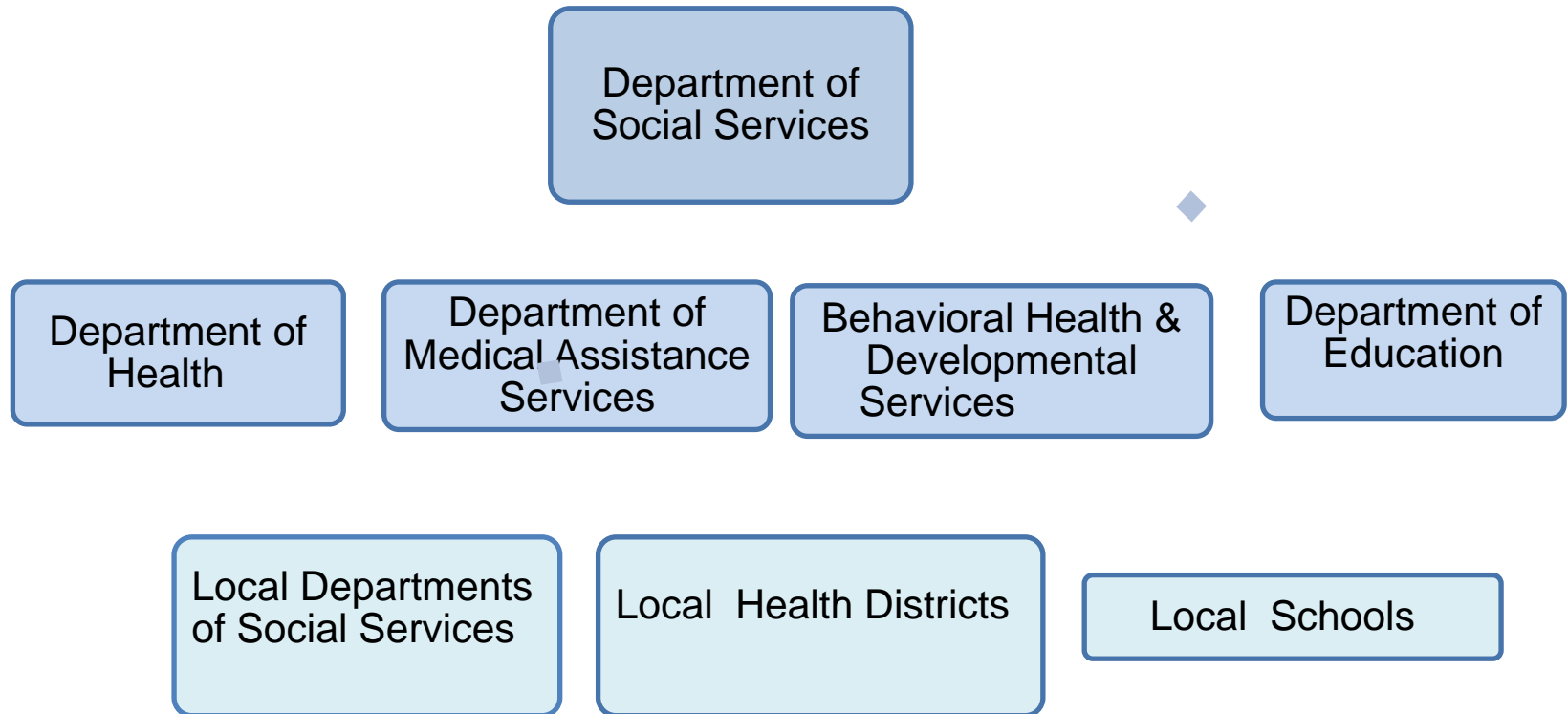
Department of Health  
and Human Services  
(ORR)



# 100 % federal funding for

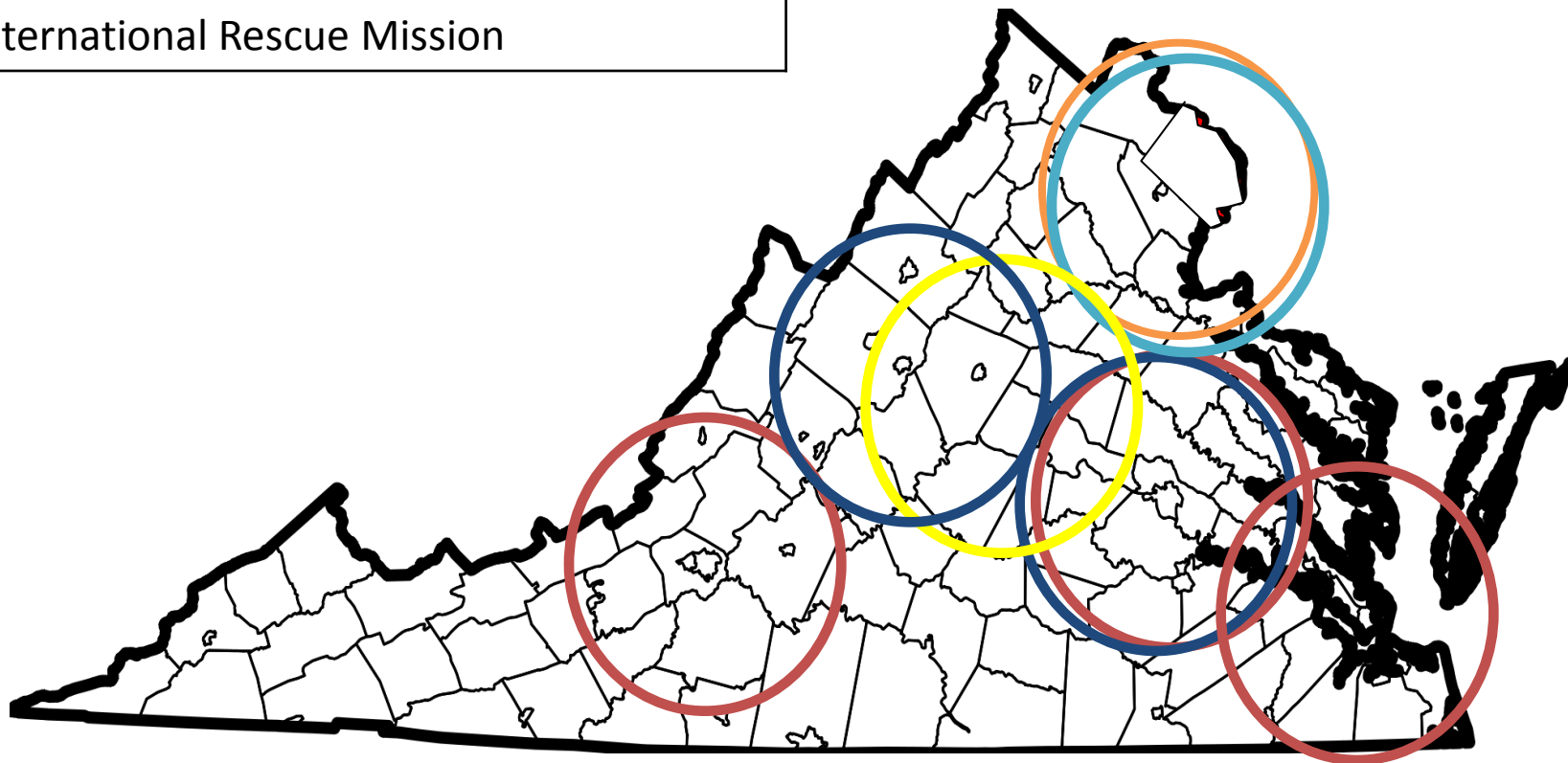
- ✓ State administration
- ✓ 8 months of refugee cash and medical assistance
- ✓ Initial health screening & follow-up
- ✓ Up to 5 years of employment and ESL services
- ✓ Special grant programs for health, school assistance, citizenship, elderly services
- ✓ Foster care services for unaccompanied refugee children

# State and Local Partners



# Refugee Resettlement Service Areas

	Catholic Charities of Diocese of Arlington
	Commonwealth Catholic Charities
	Church World Services
	Lutheran Social Services
	International Rescue Mission



# The key to effective refugee service delivery is Virginia's Comprehensive Resettlement Model.

- It is a framework
- It is a guiding principal

# Six Guiding Principles for Comprehensive Refugee Resettlement

- 1. Comprehensive resettlement must be at the center (at the root) of all services**
- 2. Public assistance, if part of the resettlement plan, must be short term**
- 3. The primary focus is self-sufficiency: Employment**
- 4. Physical and mental health needs must be addressed in a timely coordinated fashion**
- 5. Community receptivity to refugees is a key factor in successful resettlement and community dialogues are imperative**
- 6. Services - whether provided concurrently, progressively, or successively – must be part of planned continuum of services**

# At the center of refugee service delivery is the refugee resettlement staff

With each step of resettlement other  
community partners become involved

- ✓ local health districts
- ✓ social services agencies
- ✓ schools
- ✓ Community Services Boards
- ✓ employers
- ✓ Work Force Investment agencies
- ✓ health providers

# Virginia Refugee Resettlement Program

## Federal Funding Time Table

Service Provided	Federal Funding Period from Date of U.S. Arrival							
	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	4-6 Months	7-8 Months	9-12 Months	13-24 Months	25-60 Months
Orientation			RRO Short Term					
Case Management								
Housing			RRO Longer Term					
Employment								
English Language Training								
Cash Assistance			Community					
Medical Assistance								
Food Assistance								
Other Services								

## **To use this funding to effectively Achieve Durable and Long-Term Self-Sufficiency Requires**

- 1. Community receptivity to refugees is a key factor in successful resettlement and integration.**
- 2. Measuring a community's capacity to support a 'long-term & durable solution' for refugee resettlement and integration.**

Note: Both are mandated by

- federal regulation and
- Cooperative Agreements between federal agency and resettlement service providers.



# The ONS, VCCI

## Virginia Community Capacity Initiative

- Connects and engages a broad representation of community partners in focusing on best practices in welcoming refugees
- Provides strategic and critical thinking on resettlement strategies
- Assists the SRC by informing ONS of unmet needs and potential solutions.

# Community Dialogues Groups

The focus is on community capacity and receptivity in the areas of business, economy, education, human services, and public health

## Membership includes (or will include)

- Refugee Resettlement Offices
- Local Departments of Social Services
- Local Health Districts
- Local Mental Health Providers
- Workforce Development Investment Boards
- Community College Workforce Departments
- Local School Divisions and Adult Education
- Local Governing and Public Offices
- Landlords
- Local Police and Public Safety
- Ethnic and Cultural Organizations
- Faith Institutions
- Local Area Agencies on Aging
- ESL/ELT Service Organizations

# YOU provide the refugee with the tools needed for successful community integration

